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Approved For Release 2000/08/04 : CIA-RDP78T05439A000300350043-7

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S-12977
NPIC/R-1011/62
March 1962

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW by NIMA/DOD 4/3/00

NEW SOVIET MISSILE TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER



ARMY



NAVY



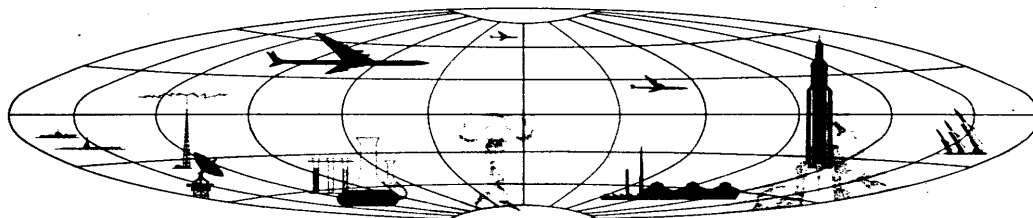
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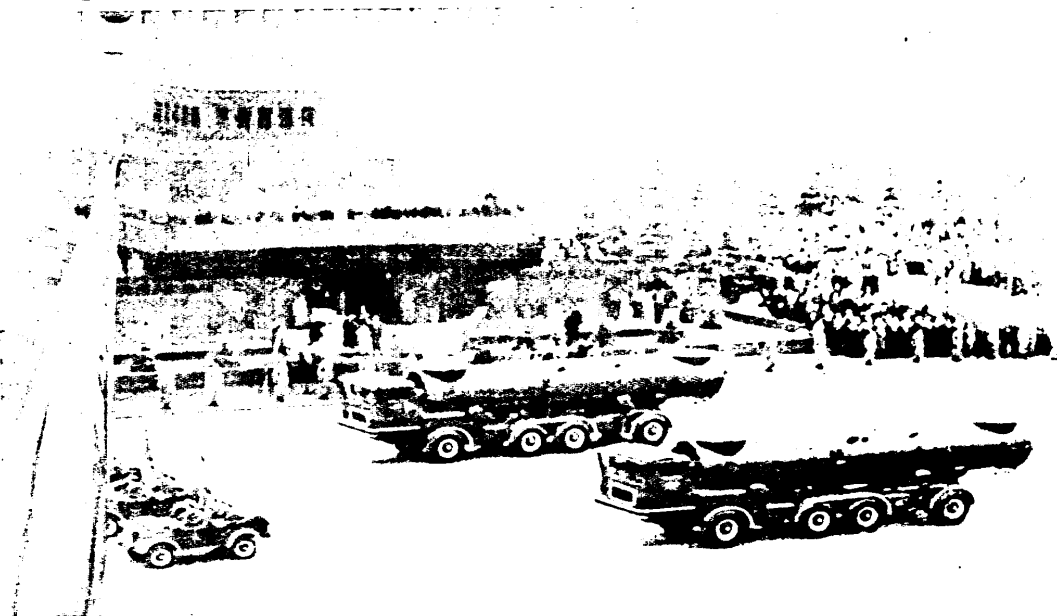
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NEW SOVIET MISSILE TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER

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In the Moscow October Revolution Parade of [REDACTED] the Soviets displayed a new self-propelled, eight-wheeled, missile transporter-erector-launcher (Figure 1). The vehicle is considered to be an integrated weapons system, providing transport, environmental housing, and a launching platform for the missile.

With probably six of its eight wheels functioning as drive wheels, the transporter would have good road and limited cross-country mobility. Both the front and rear pairs of wheels probably steer, to facilitate turning. Hydraulic leveling jacks, blast shields, heavy-gage missile



NPIC G-5606 (3/62)

FIGURE 1. NEW MISSILE TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER [REDACTED]

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container, hinge point, and elevating mechanism all indicate that the vehicle is used as a launch platform (Figure 2). When fully extended, the leveling jacks could lift the vehicle frame an additional [REDACTED] feet off the ground. Firing angles could vary between 10° and 55° . At the maximum angle of 55° the container would be aligned with the sloping container hinge (Figure 3).

The missile probably rests on its launching rail/rails within the container and is kept at a constant temperature and humidity, free from

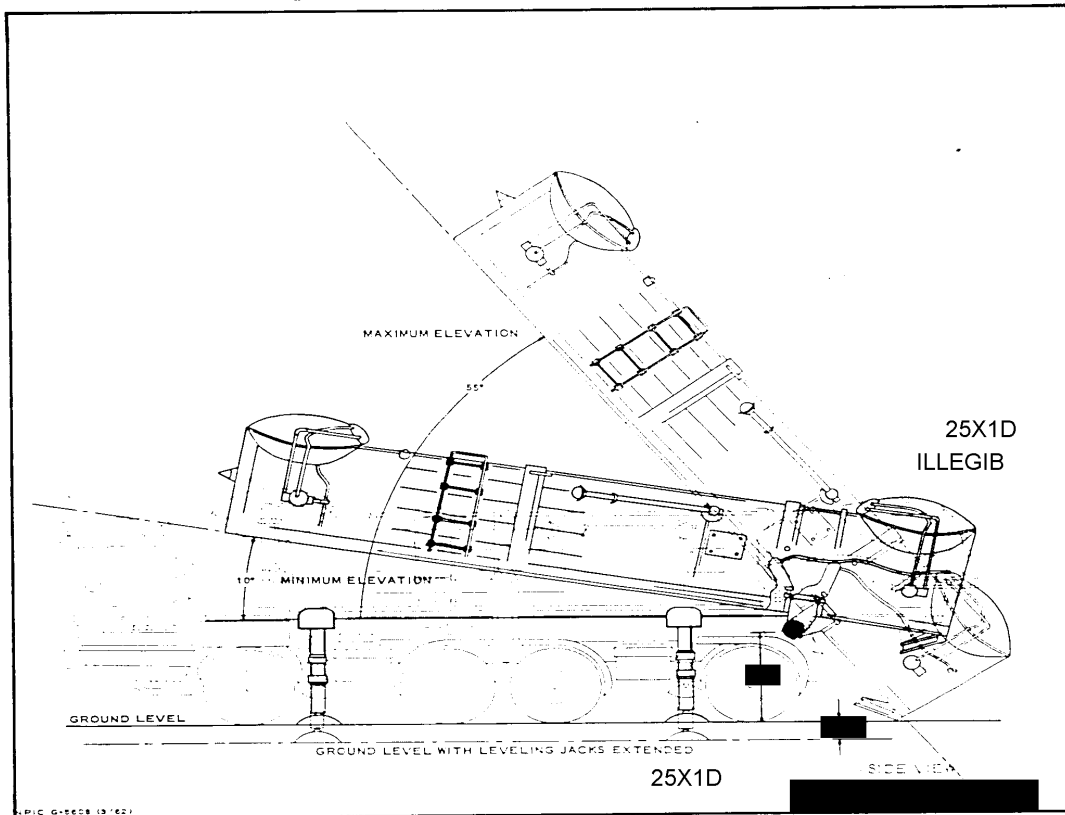


FIGURE 3. SCHEMATIC DRAWING SHOWING MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM FIRING ANGLES.

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dust and contamination. Before launching, both container end covers are rotated to their rest positions on top of the container. The rear cover would be removed first, and then the front cover, after the container had been elevated to clear the cab. There is no evidence of a container traversing mechanism to aim the missile along a precise firing azimuth. Therefore, it is reasonable to presume that the missile is a guided missile and not a FROG (free rocket over ground) type of missile. Further classification of the guided missile, as to whether it is solid- or liquid-propelled, a ballistic or cruise type, cannot be established with confidence from present photographic evidence.

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REFERENCES

REQUIREMENT

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